



CATHOLIC CHURCH of St Ignatius

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2019

Extraordinary *or* Out of the Ordinary

As we move gently into the liturgical time that's called Ordinary, it might be opportune to consider what ordinary actually means to us. The ordinary rhythms of life, with all the banalities and mundane things can give us the impression that normal life can be somewhat boring and unexciting. We live our lives as we always do, waiting for the little moments of the extraordinary that occur within the ordinary. What we don't realise is that the extraordinary often isn't as far away as we think and that it's the ordinary things that, touched by the grace of God, become the truly extraordinary. We see that in the Gospel of today in an extraordinary manner.

Weddings and celebrations are special occasions, extraordinary in themselves, but filled with ordinary people who are leading ordinary lives. We celebrate rites of passages, of growth and development of each other, and we recognise the beauty and necessity of such celebrations. They're also windows into the possibility of the extraordinary within the ordinariness of our lives. We see Jesus, his mother and the disciples in their ordinariness as guests at a wedding at Cana. Jesus, son of God made man, was there with others to show not just his humanity, but his willingness to share this humanity with others. A look at the brief interaction between mother and son at the wedding highlights this humanity, but demonstrates the extraordinariness that can occur if we just pause to notice it.

Mary told Jesus that the family ran out of wine. Jesus' rather curt response can be surprising and while some might try to tone it down, I feel that it's a fairly ordinary response. Jesus might just be

saying that as normal guests, one should not seek to be an unwelcome busybody and allow the hosts to sort things out on their own. Furthermore, he might be telling her that the time to show his divinity had not quite come yet and that he should remain ordinary for a longer period of time.

What's extraordinary was what happened next. Mary heard what Jesus had to say and went on to tell the servants to follow the instructions of her son. There was no indication in anything that Jesus said that told her that he might be of help, but she, with a faith that remains unparalleled, effectively told the servants that Jesus would be there to solve the problem. I believe that it's that extraordinary faith that paved the way for the miracle to occur – an extraordinary act that gave the possibility for an even more extraordinary event to happen. The words “Do whatever he tells you” are ordinary, but the faith that underlined those words, a faith that came even without a full understanding of the significance of Jesus' mission and that came from many years of pondering things in her heart, showed that Mary knew that her son was truly extraordinary.

And that's who we're called to be – extraordinary witnesses of the Lord in the ordinariness of our lives. It's important to recognise that despite our seeming ordinariness, we're all touched by the extraordinary grace of God by virtue of

our creation in God's image and likeness, and by our baptism and participation in the sacraments. It is this grace that enables us to transcend the ordinary as Mary did, with our simple acts of faith, hope and love that can be the spark of something truly extraordinary. Just as Mary was not the cause of the miracle that turned water to wine, her faith made that miracle possible. It's the same with many of us as our seemingly insignificant actions can be the spark of something greater, more beautiful that we could ever imagine. A loving word from a mother to child, a gentle action of letting someone pass before us, a smile or small act of kindness can be the extraordinary touch in the ordinariness of the life of another.

The most important thing that remains is the recognition that we all can transform the ordinary into the extraordinary. St Paul tells of the variety of gifts from the Spirit that we all receive and these gifts help us to “Proclaim the wonders of the Lord among all the peoples”. We might all have different means of creating the extraordinary, but the result is the same – demonstrating how the glory of God is always with us in our ordinary lives, and giving praise and thanksgiving for such wonders, no matter how small they might seem at the start. We can start with the small things with those closest to us and the effects can be extraordinary, or even miraculous.

STANLEY GOH, SJ

Fr Colin Tan, SJ Parish Priest ★ Fr Matthew Tan, SJ Assistant Parish Priest ★ Fr Jerome Leon, SJ Assistant Parish Priest

Angela Kurnadi Parish Administrator ★ Suzie Wee Parish Accountant ★ Jeremy Aloysius Catechetical Director ★ Gerard Robert Youth Coordinator ★ Cheryl Lek Youth Coordinator

Robert Ong Sacristan ★ David Saw Operations Manager ★ Steven Leong Facilities Manager ★ Therese Gian Communications Manager

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time ★ 1st Reading Isaiah 62:1-5 ★ 2nd Reading 1 Corinthians 12:4-11 ★ Gospel John 2:1-11

PARISH NEWS

ROAD TO EMMAUS SESSIONS – RECOMMENCEMENT

Journey on the Road to Emmaus and let the Word of God burn within your hearts (Luke 24:32).

Parish-wide Bible program designed to help us Break the Word of the weekend Liturgies, enabling us to apply its truths and meanings in our daily lives. Begins Monday 21 January, 7.45pm at the Annexe Hall. Every Monday except during school and public holidays. Newcomers are welcome to small group sharings, wrap up talks and fellowship. Contact Raymond (9731 8432) or Matthew (9667 6690).

NS FELLOWSHIP

Calling all Pre-enlistees and NSFs, join us for a chill-out night of food, drinks and sharing on how to find God in all things especially during your 2 year service. Next Saturday 26 January, 6pm at the Rooftop Garden (Level 3 Annexe Block).

PIANIST FOR CHOIR

St Francis Xavier Choir is looking for a resident pianist to serve on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month at the 6.00pm Sunset Mass. Contact Mai at 9017 7411 or send her an email at mtatoy@gmail.com

FAMILY 8.15AM CHOIR INVITES

Families, catechists, students and friends are invited to be part of the choir for the 8.15am Mass on Sunday 3 February to mark the start of catechetical year 2019 on Sunday 3 February. Only one practice next Sunday 27 January, 10.30am at the Music Room. All are welcome. Contact Joseph Tan at jtan23@gmail.com for details.

APPEAL FOR MEN'S CLOTHING

For St Vincent de Paul Society's (SSVP) monthly distribution to migrant workers at Little India, please donate laundered and in good condition men's clothes (Pants waist size: 27-36 inch, Shirts/T-shirts: Asian S, M & L). Leave your donations in the boxes outside Rm 01-13 (behind St Ignatius Hall). Volunteers to help distribute the clothes are most welcome. Email ssvp.stignatius@gmail.com or whatsapp Magdalene at 9152 8227.

ALPHA FILM SERIES: BEGIN THE GREATEST ADVENTURE

Session 1: Is There More to Life than This?

Alpha, the series of interactive sessions that explores the meaning of life in the context of our Christian faith, starts 14 February and on every Thursday. Sessions begin with a meal, followed by a video presentation/talk and a short group discussion. 7pm at Sacred Heart Hall (Canteen).

SYMPOSIUM – JOIN THE DISCUSSION

St Ignatius Hall, Saturday 26 January, from 8:15am (registration) to 2pm (with brunch)
The Magis Family Ministry is holding the symposium Free to love - Responding to Pornography, Promiscuity and Sexual Predation (3Ps): A Field Guide
Fr David Garcia, renowned lecturer and speaker on moral

theology and family life, with a panel of experts, counsellors, parents and young adults offer insights and perspectives on the 3Ps, their harmful impact on us and our families, and what we can do about it. For catering and logistics, pre-register at <https://tinyurl.com/Free-to-love-PPP> or scan

INFANT BAPTISMS on Sunday 10 February at 3.00pm. Parents and godparents are required to attend a briefing on Sunday 3 February, 3pm at La Storta Room. Registration forms at church office or website. Please choose a saint's name for your child. Contact Valerie (9189 3770) & Gerard Lee (9677 0078), Michelle (9765 2936) & Mark Kwek (9221 0281).

WEEKEND CATECHETICAL PROGRAMME

Catechetical sessions will only resume on Saturday 16/ Sunday 17 February. Please note the Parents' Meetings (for selected levels) at 8.00pm, St Ignatius Hall:
* P6 – Thursday 24 January * S1 – Monday 28 January
* S3 – Thursday 31 January

TUESDAY LADIES BIBLE STUDY GROUP

Every Tuesday 10am to 12pm at the Annexe Hall.
15 January to 19 March – *7 Deadly Sins and 7 Lively Virtues* by Bishop Robert Barron
26 March to 11 June – *First Corinthians: The Church and the Christian Community* by Tim Gray
Contact Marjorie Teo at marjteo@singnet.com.sg or 9733 8730 for more information

CHARISMATIC RENEWAL COMMUNITY

Let us come to the Lord in deep faith and humility, surrendering our pains and heartaches so He can heal our brokenness and make us whole again. All are welcome to the praying over for healing this Wednesday 23 January, at St Ignatius Hall. Dinner fellowship begins at 7.30pm and the session ends at 9.30pm.

MASS FOR THE ELDERLY AND THE SICK

with the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick is on Saturday, 16 February at 2.30pm. Confessions from 2.00pm. Registration forms at the Place of Gathering.

NCC NEWS

Unless otherwise stated, all meetings start at 8.00pm.

ZONE C – ST THERESA OF CALCUTTA

Monday 21 January, Loyola Room, 7.30pm
Program: The Examen

ZONE D DISTRICT 1

Friday 25 January, Rm 01-03
Programme: St Paul – video and discussion

ZONE E DISTRICT 3

Thursday 31 January, SH-02-E
Programme: Experiencing Grief and Loss

Safe Landing

While, on average, 1000 adults are initiated into the Catholic Church in Singapore every year, there are also quite a number who leave the Church. You must have heard this joke: teenagers after receiving Sacrament of Confirmation have also graduated from church attendance. People leave the Church for various reasons – a crisis of faith, a bad experience with a church minister, or an inability to find life and fulfillment in Catholicism.

Some of you may already know that we are trying to bring the Landings ministry to the Church of St Ignatius. Landings helps welcome lapsed and estranged Catholics back to the bosom of Mother Church. And in some cases, the Landings journey has also helped rejuvenate the faith life of lukewarm Catholics. In this article, our parishioner Victoria Ho, who returned to the Church through Landings and now also serves in the ministry, reflects on her journey to God.



Do you go to Church? If you had asked me this question 5 years ago, I would have said, "I'm Catholic, but I don't go to Church."

The emphasis would have been on "I don't go to Church" as though this was something that needed validation or approval. Why? Because since I "don't go to Church", I fit in with the secular world. One could say I was even embarrassed to be Christian.

After my confirmation, everything else just seemed more important than God: school life, partying with friends, university, boys and all the trappings of the material world took centre stage. I had no time for God.

At the time, I postponed thinking about God. The crux of it was that I could not reconcile being a Catholic with living the life I wanted. It was much easier to push God aside.

I found ways to criticise the Church from afar, without attempting to really understand its teachings and thus justified my own actions in staying away. I rationalised that it was sufficient for me to just be a good person and that I did not need to physically attend Mass or go for confession.

Over time, my definition of "good" morphed to suit my preferences. I didn't realise it at the time, but I was slowly but surely being emptied out spiritually. A God-shaped hole had formed – a hole that I tried to fill with academic success, career achievements, and other people's perceptions and opinions of me. Yet, I was incomplete.

In my late 20s, I seemed to have done pretty well in life by the typical Singaporean standard. I had a good job, an apartment, a car, and was engaged to be married. Instead, during the engagement, I was filled with a creeping restlessness and dissatisfaction with my life – a feeling that I could not ignore and more frustratingly, did not know why. Eventually, we broke up and it was traumatic not just for us, but also for our family and friends. I felt like a failure.

I didn't know this at the time, but although I had given up on God, He never gave up on me.

The turning point in my story happened somewhere in December 2013 ... when I joined a new company and through my new colleagues who were Catholics, God seemed to be pointing me back to Church through "chance" conversations with these colleagues.

On Easter Sunday in 2014, my Grandma was visiting us, and I decided that since there was no one to drive her to

popped into my head – Before I write off this religion for good, perhaps I should just give it one last shot. I couldn't shake off this thought, and so I started attending Mass more regularly.

Looking back, it could only have been God that planted this thought in my head. Somewhere during that point in time, I also chanced upon Landings in a Church bulletin and I wrote in to inquire.

In March 2015, I joined my first Landings at the Holy Spirit Church. There, I discovered a community of compassionate, non-judging friends who listened to me each week and who encouraged me to keep turning to God in all aspects of life. I learnt to ask God to help me discern the path that He wanted me to take. In Landings, we learn to cultivate a habit of recognizing our God Moments – moments in which we are thankful for, or in which we recognize angels whom God sends.

Through Landings, I learnt that faith is a journey that never stops, and that we are "Always Returning" because the road is long and winding, and we cannot and should not weather the storms of life alone. This journey is to be travelled as a community with our brothers and sisters in Christ – we lend our strength to them when they are tired, and we lean on them for support when we are tired.

My personal experience is that, the rehabilitation of a lost Catholic is not something that is achieved overnight, or even through the course of a 10-week Landings run.

It is not achieved through the effort of just one priest, or one person. The rehabilitation of a lost sheep like me, is the cumulative effort of the entire community, all of my brothers and sisters with whom I interact every week. God showered me with angels – all of you, priests and lay people alike, who by your combined efforts led me to find Christ, and who in turn inspire me to help lead others to find Christ.

You can be an angel too. Will you?

VICTORIA HO

If you are interested in serving Landings, or wish to register someone who may benefit from the Landings program, or need more information, please contact Fr Jerome at frleonsj@gmail.com, visit <https://landings.org.sg/> or speak to the representatives from Landings Singapore who are at the Place of Gathering this weekend.

JESUIT NEWS

INTRODUCTION TO AUTHENTIC CONVERSATIONS

Explore the art of listening, which is at the heart of an authentic conversation. Are we aware of what we really listen to? How does that shape quite unconsciously how we communicate, and fundamentally how we live our lives – by reacting, or acting?

Date: Wednesday, 20 February

Time: 9.30am-5.30pm

Facilitator: Lance Ng

Contribution: \$60

Register: <http://tinyurl.com/iac2019>

FOOTSTEPS OF ST IGNATIUS

Walk in the footsteps of St Ignatius with Spiritual Director Fr Agustinus Tanudjaja, SJ. 15 - 25 March – Singapore to Italy. Register before Thursday 31 January. Priced at \$3,400 (includes flights, twin-sharing accommodation, meals as stated and taxes). Contact Beautix at 9066 8861 or 6909 8346/64 (10am to 5pm)

Jesuit Regional Curia, Telephone: 6469 7356

Fr Christopher Soh, SJ, Fr James Tan, SJ

Kingsmead Hall, Jesuit Community, Tel: 6466 3225

Fr Gerald Tseng, SJ, Fr Charles Sim, SJ, Fr Leslie Raj, SJ, Fr Agustinus Tanudjaja, SJ, Fr Gregory Tan, SJ, Fr Ravi Michael Louis, SJ, Msgr Philip Heng, SJ, Fr Adrian Danker, SJ,

Kingsmead Centre, Tel: 6467 6072 Jesuit Mission Office Tel: 6463 6022

ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS

ONE DAY serves to introduce the work of ONE to potential volunteers to be part of the New Evangelisation. We (ONE) are seeking collaborators who are fired up to build the Kingdom of God. Visit: www.one.org.sg/events

Date: 23 February Saturday
Time: 10.00am – 12.30pm

Venue: St Michael's Room, Catholic Archdiocesan Education Centre, 2 Highland Road, S(549102)

DOWN MEMORY LANE 7

CHARITY DINNER SHOW

Down Memory Lane (DML), featuring the music of the 70s and 80s, is Caritas Singapore's bi-annual fundraising event to support the work of 27 member organisations, serving the vulnerable in our community.

Saturday 2 March at One Farrer Hotel. Reservations and enquiries at dml@caritas-singapore.org or call 6338 3448

TIME WITH GOD (TWG)

WOMEN GROUP

Come and gather in a safe space for a weekly morning of prayer, reflection and sharing for women. Call 9298 5808 to confirm session.

Date/Time: Every Wednesday starting 23 January, 9.30 – 11.30 am
Venue: La Salle Centre, 490 East Coast Rd

Contribution: Love Offering

To register: 9722 3148 / 9298 5808

W: www.cenaclemission.com

E: cenaclemissionsingapore@gmail.com

Church Office

120, King's Road, Singapore 268172 or 8, Victoria Park Road, Singapore 266492

Entrance via 8 Victoria Park Road

Kingsmead Hall (Priests' Residence), St Ignatius Hall, Sacred Heart Hall, Kingsmead Centre (for Ignatian Spirituality & Counselling)

Sunday Masses

Saturday: 6.00pm

Sunday: 6.45am, 8.15am, 10.15am, 12.15pm and 6.00pm

Weekday Masses

Monday – Friday: 7.00am & 6.00pm

Saturday: 7.00am

Confessions

Every Friday & Saturday: 5.40pm

Every Sunday Mass: 20mins before Mass begins

Infant Baptism (each month)

Briefing for parents & godparents (compulsory):

1st Sunday, 3.00pm

Baptism: 2nd Sunday, 3.00pm sharp

Registration forms are available at front of Church office

Weddings

Couples must make themselves known to the priest at least one year before the wedding.

Contact: Sacristan, Robert Ong (8511 4614)

Visiting Hours (Columbarium)

Open daily from 6.30 am to 8.00 pm (including weekends & Public Holidays)

Memorial Mass at the Main Church every 4th Friday, 6.00 pm for all deceased parishioners and families, followed by prayers in Columbarium.

Inigo Bookstore

Wednesday to Saturday: 4.30pm to 7.00pm and during Sunday Masses. Closed on Monday and Tuesday

Sick, Elderly and Homebound

Please contact the parish office if help is needed for parishioners hospitalised (regardless of hospital).

In emergencies, you may also contact priests' residence at 6466 3225

Bereavement

Please contact the parish Sacristan, Robert Ong (8511 4614) for help and advice before contacting the funeral director.

Church of St Ignatius has no official social media account.

WEEKLY

Rosary Devotion in Church

Monday to Saturday, after 7am Mass and Monday to Friday 5.15pm to 5.45pm, except first Friday of the month

Intercessory Prayers

Tuesday, 2.30pm in Sacred Heart Hall Adoration Room, Level 2

Catholic content online, login:

www.FORMED.org; parish code: 4904ed

Gentle Light

Tuesday, 10am – 12noon in St Francis Xavier Chapel (Kingsmead)

Thursday, 10am – 12noon in Sacred Heart Canteen (Room SH-A)

Divine Mercy Devotion

Every Wednesday after 6.00pm Mass in the Main Church.

Christian Meditation

Friday, 2.30pm in St Francis Xavier Prayer Room (Kingsmead)

MONTHLY – in Main Church

Sacred Heart of Jesus Mass

Every 1st Friday, 8.00pm (No 6.00pm Mass) Followed by **Eucharistic Adoration by Generation CHRIST!**

Children Eucharistic Adoration

Every 3rd Friday, 7.45pm. No session in June and December

Memorial Mass

Every 4th Friday, 6.00pm, followed by prayers in the Columbarium